

Senegal and India: Great Democracies of the World

April 2, 2024

News of 2 minutes only on page 1

A BACKGROUND on President Bassirou Faye, including election of 2024: page 2

WEAK DEMOCRACIES: An Urgent Call to STRENGTHEN them: page 6

India and Senegal: Two GREAT DEMOCRACIES in the GLOBAL SOUTH: The Pride of the whole of the Democratic World: PART 1: page 9 PART 2: page 11

A BACKGROUND on SENEGAL's CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION: page 12

A BACKGROUND on Thiès, an important city, other than DAKAR, Senegal's capital: page 23

A BACKGROUND on Cap-Vert or the Cape Verde Peninsula: page 24

April 2, 2024: **Dakar, Senegal: Bassirou Diomaye Faye**, the new president of Senegal, is being sworn in today. He won the presidential election with over 54% of the votes in the first round, defeating the ruling coalition candidate, Amadou Ba. At the age of 44, Faye becomes Africa's youngest President.

Senegal's election marked its fourth democratic transfer of power since gaining independence from France in 1960. Importantly, this was the first election without an incumbent on the ballot due to term limits.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: Let us be proud of the democracies in India and Senegal. Let us all join the citizens of the two countries in **their Celebration of Democracy on April 2, 2024**, when a young **Bassirou Faye** has **become the 5th President of Senegal** and when a **great Festival of Democracy** is to begin **in India** in about two weeks.

A democracy is a human enterprise and *every generation* has to make efforts to strengthen it so that it may be able to serve the needs of *their society*.

The democratic world used to be proud of strong democratic institutions and practices in UK and **USA**. Today, every citizen knows that the democratic systems in **USA, Netherlands and Canada** are **not able to face the narratives**, built by **China, Russia, Iran and Turkey**. Progressively more countries, small and big, are falling under the influence of these four '*non—democratic and strong-looking countries*'.

Progressively, the number of democracies is falling and the public intellectuals, who espouse the cause of democracy in the Global South is becoming negligible.

www.DiGiNews360.com, therefore, calls on the leaders of USA, Canada and the Netherlands to strengthen their institutions and become the bastions of the democratic world.

www.DiGiNews360.com also calls on the young and the educated in the Global South to build strong democracies in their countries.



Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye, 5th President of Senegal (from 2 April 2024)

----A BACKGROUNDER on President **Bassirou Faye** (born 25 March 1980)----

Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye, commonly known as **Diomaye**, is the General Secretary (GS) of the banned party **African Patriots of Senegal for Work, Ethics and Fraternity** (*Patriotes africains du Sénégal pour le travail, l'éthique et la fraternité; PASTEF*), or just **Patriots of Senegal**. PASTEF was a Senegalese political party founded in 2014 by **Ousmane Sonko**.

Diomaye fought the 2024 Senegalese presidential election as an independent candidate.

Bassirou Faye obtained a Master's degree in Law from Dakar's **Cheikh Anta Diop University**. After passing the competitive exams, **Faye** enrolled at the **National School of Administration of Senegal (ENA)** and the **Magistracy** in 2004. After graduation, **Faye** opted to join the Tax and Estates department.

Faye and **Sonko** were working together in the **Taxes and Estates Union**, created by **Ousmane Sonko**. In 2014, **Sonko** created PASTEF and became a candidate in the 2019 Senegalese presidential election. **Faye** became one of the ideologues and designers of **Sonko's** program.

A RECENT ISSUE, sorted out easily by the SENEGAL's SYSTEM: President **Macky Sall's** term was set to conclude on April 2 2024.

UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT: MUZZLING the OPPOSITION: **Sonko** was arrested on the charge of rape of a massage parlor employee.

After the arrest of **Sonko**, in **February 2021**, **Faye** was appointed the GS of PASTEF. **Bassirou Faye** united the opposition under the alliance "**Liberate the People**" for the 2022 elections. PASTEF won 56 seats in the National Assembly in 2022.

IMPRISONMENT and RELEASE (from 14 April 2023 to 14th March 2024): **On 14 April 2023**, Faye was apprehended as he exited his Tax and Property office on Rue de Thiong in Dakar. Subsequently, he was placed under police custody for charges including "spreading false news, contempt of court, and defamation of a constituted body" following a social media post he made. In this post, he had denounced the perceived injustice within the judicial system, foreseeing a verdict that could potentially disqualify **Sonko** in a legal dispute between PASTEF and the Minister of Tourism, **Mame Mbaye Niang**. Later, additional charges of "incitement to insurrection" and "undermining state security" were brought against him, resulting in an indefinite period of detention.

After uncertainty over the possibility of **Sonko** being a candidate in the presidential election, **PASTEF endorsed Faye in November 2023 as its candidate for the 2024 presidential election**, despite him being detained. However, PASTEF had been banned several months earlier, meaning he was to run as an independent. **On 20 January 2024**, the **Senegalese Constitutional Council** published the final list of candidates for the presidential election. **Faye's candidacy was validated because he was never convicted**, although remaining detained. **Sonko** quickly announced his support to **Faye** for the election.

POSTPONEMENT and SUBSEQUENT OVERTURNING of POSTPONEMENT: On 3 February, 2024, **hours before campaigning was about to start**, President Macky Sall

ordered the indefinite postponement of the election, citing a parliamentary investigation into two judges of the **Constitutional Court** over their integrity with regards to the electoral process that was launched following **Karim Wade's** exclusion from the elections since he held dual-citizenship. This was **the first postponement of a presidential election in the country's history**.

Most of the opposition leaders called for a large mobilization against what they call an **abuse of power**. On 4th February, 2024 police in Dakar fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators protesting against the postponement. Three persons were killed during protests against the postponement in **Saint-Louis, Dakar** and **Ziguinchor**. Protests were also held in **Diourbel**.

On 15 February, the **Senegalese Constitutional Council** ruled that the decision to postpone and reschedule the election by Macky Sall and the National Assembly was "contrary to the constitution" and ordered its cancellation. However, it also acknowledged that holding the election as originally scheduled on 25 February was no longer feasible, and urged the government to act immediately. In response, presidential spokesperson Yoro Dia said that **Sall** would comply with the decision, and that he would leave office as scheduled on 2 April, **setting the date of election as 24 March 2024**.

Sall's proposal for a dialogue was rejected **on 23 February** by the **Aar Sunu Election** (meaning "*Protect Our Election*") **Collective** composed of 40 civil society groups, which called it "unacceptable" and an "attempt at diversion".

In the end of February 2024, **Sall's** Government tabled an **Amnesty Bill** to calm the social and political climate and released hundreds of political prisoners. **On 14th March 2024**, ten days before the election, **Sonko** and **Faye** were released from prison.

On 15 March 2024, a day after release from jail, **Faye** gathered hundreds of supporters at his first public appearance as a presidential contender. **Abdoulaye Wade** (President *from 1 April 2000 to 2 April 2012*) and his **Senegalese Democratic Party** (PDS) endorsed Faye on the same day, after PDS candidate **Karim Wade** was disqualified because he was a dual citizen at the time, he submitted his candidacy. Dr. **Cheikh Tidiane Dieye**, the executive director of the **African Centre for Trade, Integration and Development** (CACID) and another candidate in the presidential election, also withdrew in favor of **Faye**.

March 24, 2024: **Dakar, Senegal: Senegal’s 2024 Presidential Election: Winds of Change:** On **March 24, 2024**, millions of Senegalese citizens headed to the polls to elect their next president.

The Candidates

- **Bassirou Diomaye Faye: 44 years old**, Faye emerged as the **anti-establishment candidate**, promising radical change. His party, **Pastef**, led by the popular **Ousmane Sonko**, rallied behind him. Sonko, though disqualified from the race, through a judicial process, had a massive following among Senegal’s youth.
- **Amadou Ba**: Ba represented the ruling administration led by President **Macky Sall**. Senegal, like many countries of the Global South, was facing inflation due to Ukraine and Gaza wars. The **UN World Food Program** reported that **39% of Senegalese** lived in poverty.

Key Issues and Promises: Faye pledged to end Senegal’s use of the **CFA franc**, a currency pegged to the Euro and backed by the French treasury. **CFA franc** is considered as a **relic of colonialism**.

In Senegal, significant hydrocarbon resources have been discovered. Faye has vowed to **negotiate** or renegotiate the contracts for production of gas and oil reserves, ensuring that Senegal’s wealth benefited its people.

Election Day and Jubilation: Faye had been **released from jail** just days earlier, adding drama to his campaign. Young people on motorbikes chanted, “**To the (presidential) palace,**” celebrating the possibility of a new era.

Faye won the election with 54% vote.



Ousmane Sonko (B.15 July 1974), Prime Minister of Senegal (from 3 April 2024) Mayor of Ziguinchor (2022–24); Member of the National Assembly (2017–22)

PREVIOUS ARTICLES: www.DiGiNews360.com has always asked the young and educated in the *Global South* to build strong democracies in their respective countries so that everyone can live with dignity a meaningful life. www.DiGiNews360.com started with an article on making Nigeria a country, to which **people from all over the world would like to come** and where **they would like to build their home**.

Note: 1. For a **Call to leaders of thought in Nigeria** about **building a vision of the future for their country**, please read “MANIFESTO of DigiNews360: A Platform for Ideas, that will Build the World of Tomorrow”, dated **October 20, 2022** at <https://diginews360.com/how-to-get-the-best-deals-on-hotels-and-flights-2/> .

2. “Nigeria will grow, with efforts of all, by leaps and bounds and **Nigeria will be the cynosure of all**,” said www.DiGiNews360.com in “Asiwaju Bola takes Control” dated **May 31, 2023** at <https://diginews360.com/asiwaju-bola-takes-control/> .

3. www.DiGiNews360.com said that “Good governance and pro-poor leadership” can transform Nigeria and it compared, very briefly, the challenges being faced by Nigeria and India in “ “State of Union” Address by President TINUBU; Cost of NASS” dated August 1, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/state-of-union-address-by-president-tinubu-cost-of-nass/> .

----WEAK DEMOCRACIES: An Urgent Call to STRENGTHEN them----

USA, Canada and the **Netherlands** used to be champions of democracy in the world. Today, the democratic systems, in the three are not working well. The democratic world must, therefore, ask these three countries to work for strengthening their systems.

WEAKNESSES: The ‘*wokeism*’ and the ‘*weakening of the quest for excellence*’, in the name of **Affirmative Action**, *taken to its absurd extremes by many researchers at ivy-League institutions*, is making the Universities, the media and the democratic institutions **abandon studies for determining the reasons of weakening of democracies in USA and Canada**, and, **for preparing the plans for strengthening the democratic systems**.

Every citizen in Canada and USA knows about the issues, plaguing the democratic system in their country. www.DiGiNews360.com enumerates the major problems as follows:

USA: Large illegal immigration and presence of millions of these intruders, without any Visas, is making it easy for drug-traffickers and other miscreants to enter USA. The addiction with drugs of a large number of the young, is leading the **powerful country** towards becoming a nation, which is **losing many talented young to strong drugs**, and, which is having a good number of **old persons with dementia**. Many **Think Tanks** and **Ivy League institutions have given up the quest for excellence** (called Wokeism). **This leads to confused policies at the national level**. Moreover, its financial mis-management is destroying USA's strength from inside.

Another issue is that President **Joe Biden** is not able to focus on the goals, set by him, because of the **intellectual anarchy** in the Democratic Party's administration. As an example, many journalists try to make the foreign policy goals of President **Joe Biden's** hazy, by using the large number of 'wokes' in his administration. (**Sheikh Saaliq** of the *Associated Press* in "Here's what you need to know about the world's largest democratic election kicking off in India" of the Canadian Press dated 3rd April 2024 at <https://tinyurl.com/3kn9nud4> tries to weaken strategic bonds, President Biden is building with India.)

CANADA: 1. Many of the provinces and the Federal Government are unable to work in co-ordination. 2. The only agenda of the Federal government is a high-decibel support for de-Carbonization, with a messy and surreptitious retreat from all its plans. 3. **The long and agonizing delays in issuing PRs to new refugees/immigrants**. 4. The large immigration has been permitted with **no plans, whatsoever**, for settling the immigrants in Canada, with a huge gap between the number of immigrants and **the number of homes**, being built for a whole decade. The Canadian government has forgotten that **public infra-structure like hospitals**, education, roads and bridges are its responsibility. Today, it is difficult to find a citizen, who has needed an **emergency help** at a hospital and who has not been forced to suffer **unbearable delays in getting medical help**. 4. The purchase of majority in the Parliament by permitting **China to blatantly interfere in the election processes**, and, by mortgaging to a **Khalistani** the power to execute all policies **for inter-action with India** in order to have a majority for rule by the Liberal Party of Canada

EXAMPLE 1.: The issue relating to **Han Dong**, the Don Valley West MP earlier a Member of the Liberal caucus, now independent): Considered view of www.DiGiNews360.com is that the Canadian Government has been unfair to both

the MP and the citizens by not bringing out the truth, pro-actively: A reputed journalist of Canada in his column, said that many candidates had accepted financial and other help from the **Chinese Consulate in Toronto** for winning nomination and for getting elected in 2019. **Han Dong** was also suspected of **having** advised the Chinese diplomats in Toronto against the quick release of **Michael Kovrig** and **Michael Spavor**. Dong has denied the allegation and said he has always advocated for the early release of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor.

Tuesday, April 2, 2024: Ottawa: **Han Dong** has appeared as a witness at the '*Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions*'.

EXAMPLE 2.: The issue relating to a former B.C. MP **Kenny Chiu**: **Kenny Chiu** has been a vocal critic of China. He says that he lost his seat in the 2021 federal election due to China's alleged election meddling. He says he was the target of propaganda and disinformation on WeChat during the last **election campaign**.

Chiu lost the Steveston-Richmond East seat in 2021.

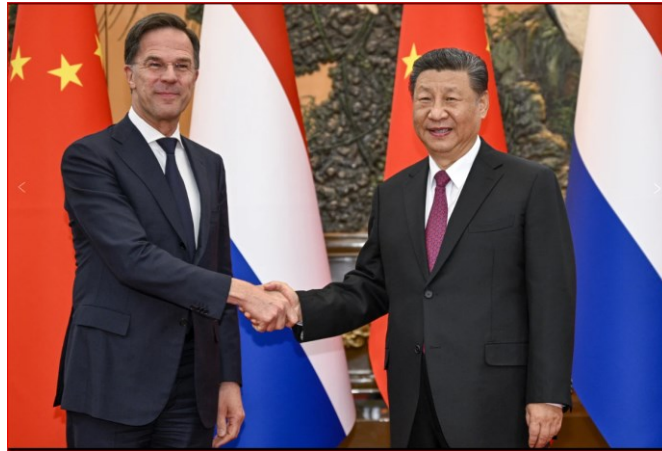
Chiu says he's not surprised by the report in **the Globe and Mail** citing Canadian intelligence documents and describing alleged **efforts to oust candidates seen as unfriendly to Beijing**. After the elections, he says that he learnt that articles indicating that **his private member bill regarding foreign influence** would "put Chinese Canadians in danger" were circulating on WeChat — something he says is not true.

Kenny Chiu believes there's been a lack of action from Ottawa on foreign interests operating in Canadian politics. "What I feel is a **deep sense of worry for our country**," **Chiu** told Gloria Macarenko, the host of 'On The Coast'.

He added, "We're continuously allowing and permitting foreign countries that are aggressive and predatory to penetrate our systems, our institutions and jeopardizing their integrity ... without our government doing anything to protect and safeguard it."

The NETHERLANDS: Inability to set up a new government for months after every election and making **Mark Rutte**, the Prime Minister, so powerless that President **Xi Jinping** can deliver a lecture about stopping the export of ASML machines, that

use **extreme ultraviolet lithography** to make advanced semiconductors, while **PM Rutte did not have the courage to say that ASML machines could be supplied to democratic countries only.**



March 27, 2024: Great Hall of the People, Beijing, China:
Dutch Prime Minister **Mark Rutte** with the Chinese President **Xi Jinping**

----**India** and **Senegal**: Two GREAT DEMOCRACIES in the GLOBAL SOUTH----

The Pride of the whole of the Democratic World

When www.DiGiNews360.com says that **the UNO and the African Union** must act strongly against military coup-makers, the Readers cite hundreds of years of struggle, that have created today's strong democratic institutions in the west. It is true that the **British Parliamentary system, with a King as its Head of State has evolved over 350 years.** It is also true that **USA won its independence in 1776 and its written constitution became operational on March 9, 1789.**

But, www.DiGiNews360.com is pleased to share with you the examples of **India** and **Senegal**, which have been able to successfully establish strong roots for their respective democratic systems. **Let us take pride in, and, let us study and learn from** the efforts of the two societies.

PART 1: INDIA: FESTIVAL of DEMOCRACY: On April 19, 2024 will begin the elections, through which 969 Mn voters will chose the next Central Government in India. **Narendra Modi**, Leader of the **Bharatiya Janata**

Party (BJP) and Rahul Gandhi of the Indian National Congress (INC) are two national parties, along with many regional parties, which will participate in the elections.

Since August 15, 1947, India has maintained its democratic convictions, largely due to India's **age-old traditions of rulers being responsible to the people**, even when those rulers were called Kings. India's democracy boasts of **free and fair elections** and **peaceful transfer of power** to the winner, every five years. India also has an **independent judiciary**, a **thriving media** and **strong opposition parties**.

A BRIEF NOTE on recent HISTORY: On August 15, 1947, the British left India after partitioning it and creating a new country, called **Pakistan**, in an unprecedented trail of blood, which led to the largest killing of civilians in human history and the largest number of Refugees.

The British East India Company had entered an India, which had a GDP of more than 25% of the GDP of the world. In 1947, India's GDP had fallen to less than 4% of the Global GDP.

Since the British left on August 15, 1947, free and largely fair elections have been held regularly and the citizens as well as any legal visitors have enjoyed fundamental rights, guaranteed by a free judiciary, except during 18 months of emergency rule by **Mrs. Indira Gandhi**. President **Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed**, under Article 352 of the Constitution, imposed the **Emergency**, which was in effect from **25 June 1975 and ended on 21 March 1977**. Indian judiciary caved in, when on April 28, 1976, **the Habeas Corpus case of Shivakant Shukla**, was rejected by a bench of five judges, namely, **Chief Justice of India (CJI) A.N. Ray**, and **Justices H.R. Khanna, M.H. Beg, Y.V. Chandrachud and P.N. Bhagwati**. **Justice Khanna was the lone dissenter in the case**. However, the people continued to mount an agitation against the emergency all through the 18 months. When elections were held, **Mrs. Indira Gandhi** lost the election and **Morarji Desai**, the leader of **Janata Party (JP)**, a new party, formed by a merger of many smaller opposition parties, became the Prime Minister.

Indian Prime Ministers (PMs), since August 15, 1947, have been personally honest. They all belonged to the elite till 2014, when **Narendra Modi**, from a poor family, became the PM of India. The media and the judiciary continue to be the bastions of the elite.

The opinion of www.DiGiNews360.com is that the CJI and Rahul Gandhi do not think that PM **Modi**, an ordinary, albeit an intelligent person, a poet and a writer in Gujarati language, should be the PM of India, when he has not studied at any Ivy-League educational institution of the west, when he does not belong to an affluent family, when

he cannot speak in the British accent and when his books, in Gujarati language, have neither been published by a foreign publisher nor have they been critically acclaimed by anyone in the west. (www.DiGiNews360.com asks for apology from both the CJI and Rahul Gandhi for articulating, what most of the ordinary Indians feel, as per the opinion of www.DiGiNews360.com.)

Rahul Gandhi, Pakistan, China and the media of the world blame **Modi** for being against the minorities (i.e. *Muslims*), and therefore against the 'secular ethos' of Indian constitution. According to www.DiGiNews360.com, the fact is that **Modi**, is the first PM of India, who is a practicing Hindu and who regularly and with devotion, visits the pilgrimage places of Hindus. (www.DiGiNews360.com notes that PM **Modi** also visits the Churches, Mosques and Gurudwaras to convey his Greetings to the minorities on their festivals. www.DiGiNews360.com also notes that, on the whole, the Muslims have taken very much larger benefits from **Modi** government's programs for the poor than the citizens of other faiths.)

Unfortunately, some irresponsible journalists have invented false stories to paint **Modi** negatively. Each of such stories has proved to be fake, when examined carefully.



March 2, 2024: 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, Delhi, India:
a free-wheeling exchange between
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bill Gates
on the future of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, importance of **Digital Public Infrastructure**, and '**Namo Drone Didi**' scheme

PART 2: SENEGAL: SENEGAL, A BASTION of DEMOCRACY: REGULAR ELECTIONS and STABILITY: Senegal has maintained its exceptional record of peaceful handovers of power. The country has regularly organized presidential and legislative elections. Despite occasional violence, the stability of Senegal's institutions has remained intact.



Macky Sall, President of Senegal (from 2 April 2012)

Chairperson of the African Union (5 February 2022 – 18 February 2023)

Prime Minister of Senegal (21 July 2004 – 19 June 2007)

President of the National Assembly (20 June 2007 – 9 November 2008)

In January 2017, Senegal had helped ensure that the person, who was elected by the people of the Gambia, assumed the Presidency and the conspiracy, hatched by the incumbent President of the Gambia did not succeed.

----A BACKGROUNDER on SENEGAL'S CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION----

A STABLE ECONOMY: The economy of Senegal is driven by mining, construction, tourism, fishing and agriculture, which are the main sources of employment in rural areas, despite abundant natural resources in **iron, zircon, gas, gold, phosphates, and numerous oil discoveries recently**. However, more than half of its inhabitants (2016 Estimate) live below the poverty line.

Senegal's economy gains most of its foreign exchange from **fish, phosphates, groundnuts, tourism, and services.**

1. The FIRST REPUBLIC: Independence and Early Years (1960-1962): After gaining **independence** from France **on August 20, 1960**, Senegal used the 1959 Constitution, which served as the basic law within the **Mali Federation** (which included Senegal). The Basic Law prescribed executive powers with a prime minister, who was appointed by the President.



Léopold Sédar Senghor (Born: October 9, 1906, **Catholic**)

1st President of Senegal (6 September 1960 – 31 December 1980)

*Military service as Private 2e Classe (1939–1942) in the **Battle of France**, WW II*

*Founder of **Socialist Party of Senegal** in 1948*

On August 20, 1960, **Léopold Sédar Senghor** (*a Poet and Cultural Theorist*) took over as the first President of the **Republic of Senegal**.

Senghor and Prime Minister **Mamadou Dia** (*Born: 18 July 1910, Muslim, with radical socialist views*) started governing together. The pair's different views concerning the economy led to their split. Socialist policies caused concern among the **Marabouts** (*“religious Muslim leaders”*) who controlled the groundnut business.

BLOODLESS COUP: A group of dissident parliamentarians tabled a motion of no confidence against the government—thus against **Dia**. It had the support of **Senghor**. **Dia** responded by invoking his executive powers and ordering the army to lock the assembly building before the parliament could vote on the motion. Senghor declared that Dia had attempted a coup. **Dia and several of his ministers were arrested and tried for treason.** Eventually, **Dia** received a sentence of life imprisonment, in the town of **Kédougou**. (**Kédougou** is in the SouthEast of Senegal. Please see the map, given on the last page.)

Dia was pardoned by President **Senghor** on March 27, 1974.

2. The SECOND REPUBLIC: Presidential System (1963-2000): Following the coup in December 1962, the constitution was amended to create Senegal's Second Republic. It established a strong executive presidential regime, with a 7-year term for the President, replacing the parliamentary system.

The new draft constitution, which eliminated the position of Prime Minister and established a Presidential system, was approved by 99 percent of the voters in a national **referendum held on March 3, 1963**. Senegal was declared a secular, democratic, and social republic.

The UPS won all 80 seats in the National Assembly, obtaining 94.2% of the vote.

IMPORTANT RULES of PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: 1. through **universal direct suffrage**. 2. The election follows a majority system with a runoff.

TERM of President **Léopold Sédar Senghor** (1963-1980): Senegal remained largely peaceful. However, along its southern border (below the Gambia), during 1963–1974, an armed struggle for independence was being fought in Portuguese Guinea (*now known as **Guinea-Bissau***). The Portuguese army intruded into Senegal many times. In response, Senegal petitioned the United Nations Security Council in 1963, 1965, 1969 (in response to shelling by Portuguese artillery), 1971 and finally in 1972. **On September 10, 1974, Guinea-Bissau became free.**

In 1980, **Senghor** decided to retire from politics. In 1981, he transferred power to his hand-picked successor, **Abdou Diouf**.

***Senghor** moved to France, where he died at the age of 95 on 20 December 2001.*

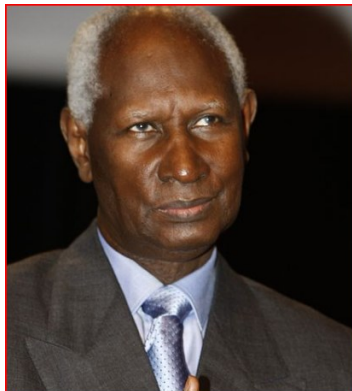
In February 1983, Senegal held both presidential and National Assembly elections.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: INCUMBENT PRESIDENT **Abdou Diouf**: **Diouf** had assumed office in January 1981 following the resignation of **Léopold Sédar Senghor**, Senegal's first President, since independence.

OPPOSITION CHALLENGER **Abdoulaye Wade**: **Wade**, representing the **Senegalese Democratic Party** (PDS), challenged Diouf.

RESULT of PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: **Diouf secured** a resounding victory, receiving **83.45% of the vote**. **Wade**, the main opposition candidate, **obtained 14.79% of the vote**. Other candidates had minimal support. Former Prime Minister **Mamadou Dia**, who had worked as Prime Minister from 1960-62 with **Senghor** as President and who had attempted an unsuccessful coup in 1962, was among the other candidates for election as President in 1983 against **Diouf**.

National Assembly Election: **Diouf's Socialist Party** dominated, winning 111 out of 120 seats. The opposition parties, including **Wade's PDS**, faced significant defeat.



Abdou Diouf

2nd President of Senegal (1 January 1981 – 1 April 2000)

2nd Secretary General of La Francophonie (1 January 2003 – 31 December 2014)

*Graduate in Law from **Dakar University** and then at the **Sorbonne** in Paris*

TERM of President **Abdou Diouf** (1981-2000): **Senegal** joined with **the Gambia** to form the nominal **Senegambia Confederation** on **1 February 1982**. However, the union was dissolved in 1989.

He encouraged broader political participation, reduced government involvement in the economy, and widened Senegal's diplomatic engagements, particularly with other developing nations.

A violent separatist movement in the southern region of the **Casamance** was started by a separatist group. Nevertheless, Senegal's commitment to democracy and human rights were strengthened by **Abdou Diouf**, who served four terms as President.

During the Gulf War, over 500 Senegalese participated in the **Battle of Khafji** and the **Liberation of Kuwait** campaign, **under the command of the U.S.-led coalition.**

HISTORIC PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS of 2000: In the year 2000, Senegal witnessed a significant electoral contest that would reshape its political landscape. Here are the key highlights:

Election Dates: The first round of voting: 27th February 2000.

Abdou Diouf, representing the **Socialist Party (PS)**, secured the most votes in the first round. PS had been the ruling party since 1960.

The runner-up: **Abdoulaye Wade**, the leader of the **Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS)**.

A SECOND ROUND: 19th March 2000, after no candidate secured more than 50% of the votes in the initial round, between Incumbent President **Abdou Diouf** vs. Opposition Leader **Abdoulaye Wade**: For the 2nd round, **Wade** received the support of candidates from the first round, including third place candidate **Moustapha Niasse**.

Abdoulaye Wade, a seasoned opposition leader, promised economic reforms, anti-corruption measures, and greater political freedoms. His message resonated with voters seeking change and a break from the status quo.

HISTORIC SHIFT in POWER: **Abdoulaye Wade** emerged victorious in the second round, defeating **President Diouf**, who had been in power since 1981. **Abdoulaye Wade** took over as the 3rd **President of Senegal on 1 April 2000**. The **Sopi Coalition** was the governing political alliance in Senegal during the presidency of **Abdoulaye Wade**. The alliance was composed of **Wade's Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS)** and smaller parties.

The alliance's name came from large crowds chanting "Sopi! Sopi!" at Wade's rallies during his successful campaign for president in 2000. "**Sopi**" is the **Wolof word** for "*change*."

President Wade appointed **Niasse** as his Prime Minister shortly after taking over as the President. **Niasse** served as Prime Minister until he **resigned on March 3, 2001** due to the difficult relationship between himself and **Wade**.

TERM of President **Abdoulaye Wade** (1 April 2000 – 2 April 2012): A constitutional referendum was held in Senegal on 7 January 2001. The new Constitution of Senegal was approved by 94% of voters, leading to early parliamentary elections taking place in April 2001. (Reference: <https://www.sec.gouv.sn/publications/lois-et-reglements/loi-ndeg-2001-03-du-22-janvier-2001-portant-constitution-modifiee>)

3. The THIRD REPUBLIC: (7 January 2001) The new constitution **abolished the Senate**, which had only come into existence in 1999; its first election had been boycotted by the opposition parties, who viewed its creation as unnecessary.

The new constitution reduced the presidential term from seven to five years, **following the completion of Wade's seven-year term in 2007**.

The new constitution mandated the **next parliamentary elections in April 2001**.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT IDEAS from the CONSTITUTION of 7 January 2001: The new constitution reaffirmed that the **Republic of Senegal** is **secular, democratic, and social**. The constitution emphasized the importance of **fundamental freedoms and citizens' rights** as the bedrock of Senegalese society.

The constitution aimed to create a modern state where **both the majority in power and the democratic opposition play crucial roles**.

Wade initially cohabited with the PS, which held a majority in the legislature until the PDS and its allies (*the Sopi Coalition*) won a majority in the April 2001 Parliamentary election.

An insurgency had been going on in the CASAMANCE region since 1982.

The CASAMANCE region of **Senegal** is below the small country of **the Gambia** and above the countries of **Guinea-Bissau** and **Guinea**. The geography and the history of this region has been quite different from the northern regions of Senegal, which are above the Gambia.

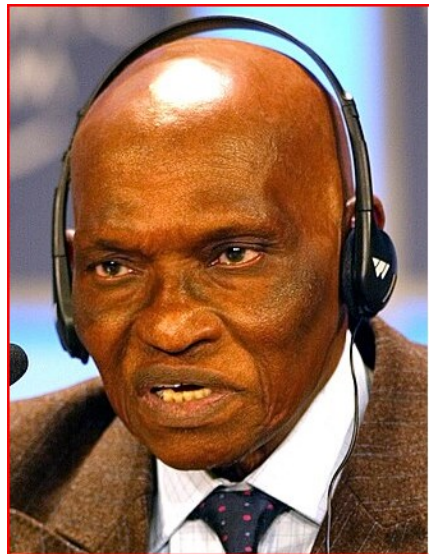
***Note:** Please see on page 20 below a BACKGROUNDER on the CONFLICT in Southern CASAMANCE REGION, Senegal.*

BRINGING PEACE to the CASAMANCE Region: In December 2004, **Wade** signed a peace accord with rebels in Casamance **after 22 years of war**.

UNESCO PEACE PRIZE: On May 17, 2006, **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO's)** Director-General **Koïchiro Matsuura** and the jury president, former U.S. Secretary of State and Nobel peace laureate **Henry Kissinger** honoured President **Abdoulaye Wade** with the **2005 Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize**.

It was the second time the award, created in 1989, has gone to Africa. **Nelson Mandela and Frederik W. De Klerk** won it in 1991.

The prize honours people and institutions which have contributed significantly to the promotion, research or safeguarding of peace while complying with the Charter of the United Nations and UNESCO's constitution. It was named for the first President of **Côte d'Ivoire**, the late **Félix Houphouët-Boigny**.



Abdoulaye Wade (born: 29 May 1926)

3rd President of Senegal (1 April 2000 – 2 April 2012)

Doctorates in Law and Economics, Professor of Law at Lycée Condorcet (Estd. 1803) in France, Dean of Faculty of Law & Economics at Dakar University

Founder of Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS) on 31 July 1974

Member of National Assembly (February 1978-1980)

Candidate for Presidential Election: The Runner-up in 1983, 1988, 1993 and Feb 27, 2000; President Diouf won a 1st round majority in 1983, 1988 and 1993.

Minister of State without portfolio (April 1991-October 1992) in a National Unity Government, Minister of State (March 1995-March 1998)

The citation for the Prize, besides other achievements and contributions, included the following:

- Under President **Abdoulaye Wade**, Senegal has become a model in the domain (of Education for All), devoting almost 40 per cent of the national budget to education.
- President **Abdoulaye Wade** has contributed to **democracy** and to the **renaissance** of the African continent, working side by side with your peers by constructing the **New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD)**, a pact of solidarity and hope.

(Reference: <https://www.un.org/esa/africa/support/Senegal.htm>)

In April 2001 legislative elections, Wade's coalition scored a decisive victory.

President **Abdoulaye Wade** was reelected in 2007. However, due to inflation and the country's infrastructure problems, **dissatisfaction with Wade's performance grew.**

DIS-SATISFACTION with the PRESIDENT: The 50-metre **bronze statue**, that Wade had commissioned for Senegal's 50th independence anniversary, was **unveiled in April 2010**. The **\$27 million** cost, when a large number of Senegalese were struggling to feed their families, was considered to be **a gross waste of public funds.**

REJECTED: TWO PROPOSALS for MODIFICATION of CONSTITUTION: In June 2011. Wade proposed that the percentage necessary to avoid a runoff, during the Presidential elections, be changed from 50 percent to 25 percent. He withdrew it on June 23 in the face of large-scale protests.

Another proposal for creating an elected vice-presidential post was also dropped, because many persons guessed that the proposal was intended to ensure that Wade's son, Karim, would be placed in position to succeed him, by making him the Vice-President.

ELECTIONS of 2012: The 2001 constitution limited presidents to two terms. For the 2012 elections, Wade became the candidate of PDS. (He argued that the two-term limit should not be applied retroactively to include his first term, which began in 2000. The country's Constitutional Council agreed with him, in a ruling in late January 2012.) However, the council's decision spawned large demonstrations.

On February 26, 2012, a presidential election was held amid a field of more than a dozen candidates. Wade received almost 35 percent votes. Trailing behind him was former Prime Minister **Macky Sall**, who won almost 27 percent.

A runoff election between Wade and Sall was held **on March 25**. Early returns indicated an overwhelming victory for Sall, and Wade conceded defeat by night. Results released in the following days showed that Wade had only obtained about 34 percent of the vote while Sall had won about 66 percent.

Wade stepped down **on April 2, 2012**.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN of **Macky Sall**: Intending to stand in the 2012 Presidential elections, Sall travelled through Senegal and met with members of the Senegalese overseas community. The initial result of **26 February 2012 election** saw **Sall obtain 26.5% of the vote against Wade's 34.8%**, forcing a runoff.

In the runoff, Sall convinced all the eliminated candidates and disqualified candidate **Youssou N'Dour** to support him, forming a coalition named "**Benno Bokk Yakkar**" (Wolof for "*United in the Same Hope*"). **Sall** promised to return to five-year presidential terms from the previous seven-year term that Wade had controversially restored. **Sall** also said that he would ensure that no leader could serve for more than two terms.

The **runoff** took place **on 25 March 2012**, and **Wade** phoned Sall at 21:30 GMT to concede the race with congratulations, before the Constitutional Council made the official proclamation that **Sall** had won with 65.8% of the vote.

INAUGURATION as the 4th PRESIDENT of SENEGAL: **Macky Sall** was **sworn in as the President** on **2 April 2012** at the King Fahd Palace hotel. The next day he appointed technocrat and banker **Abdoul Mbaye as his prime minister**, who became the head of a government and announced his intention to dissolve the National Assembly in order to hold legislative elections on 1 July.

Two controversies marked Sall's first days in office: his visit to his French counterpart, Nicolas Sarkozy, days before the latter's defeat in the 2012 French presidential elections and the publication of his net worth, 1.3 billion CFA Francs, largely acquired during his tenure as Wade's prime minister. Jeune Afrique

suggested that Sall's wealth appeared to be inconsistent with his income as a senior public servant. (Reference: <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/pays/senegal/>)

TERM of President Macky Sall: (from 2 April 2012 to 2 April 2024):



4th President of Senegal Macky Sall (Born:11 December 1961)

Prime Minister of Senegal (21 July 2004 – 19 June 2007)

President of the National Assembly (20 June 2007 – 9 November 2008)

Mayor of Fatick (1 April 2009 – 2 April 2012 and 1 June 2002 – 9 November 2008)

20th Chairperson of the African Union (5 February 2022 – 18 February 2023)

*Member of **Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS)** from late 1980-2008*

*Founded **Alliance for the Republic–Yaakaar (APR)**, on 1 December 2008*

A graduate in **Geological Engineering** from **Institute of Earth Sciences (IST)**, **University of Dakar** and at the **French Institute of Petroleum's (IFP's)**

National College of Petrol and Engines (ENSPM) in Paris

In the lead-up to the legislative elections in July 2012, for which he managed to preserve the **Benno Bokk Yaakaar coalition** intact, **Sall** moved in multiple directions to win greater public approval. These included the following:

Sall re-established the **Court for the Repression of Illegal Enrichment** and announced the creation of a **National Anti-corruption Office (Ofnac)** and a **National Commission for the restitution of property and recovery of wrongly acquired possessions**.

In advance of the new school year, a **national conference on education** was scheduled.

In February 2013, Sall secured \$7.5 billion for his economic development plan, dubbed "**Emergent Senegal**", designed to transform Senegal into an emergent economy by 2035 through investments in agriculture, infrastructure and tourism. Sall's government also moved toward the establishment of a new universal healthcare system. While the World Trade Organization called Sall's plans "ambitious," popular dissatisfaction with the slow pace of progress was reported.

Since his election in 2012, **peace in the Casamance region** had been a top priority for Sall. The **Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance** (MFDC) had been pursuing the cause of separatism for Casamance, a small region in the south of the country, dominated by **Christians from the minority Jola ethnic group**, since the 1970s.

On 1 May 2014, after secret talks held at the Vatican between **Salif Sadio**, a leader of MFDC and **Sall**, a cease-fire was declared.

In January 2016, Sall supported proposed constitutional reforms that would **limit any president to two consecutive terms in office**, and **reduce the term of office from seven years to five**, in accordance with his promise at the 2012 election. The **Constitutional Council** refused to allow Sall to shorten his own term of office, but allowed the other changes to be put to a referendum. Protests and violent clashes preceded the referendum, which passed on 20 March 2016 with 63% in favor.

Second term: In the 2019 Senegalese presidential election Sall won re-election with 58% of the vote.

Sall was elected as **Chairperson of the African Union** for the year 2022, with his term beginning on 5 February 2022. On 3 June 2022, **Sall** met with Russian **President Vladimir Putin** in Sochi, Russia to discuss **grain deliveries from Russia and Ukraine to Africa**.

In 2021, there were protests against **Sall** after opposition leader **Ousmane Sonko** was arrested. In November 2022, investigative reporter Pape Alé Niang was arrested after reporting on the government investigation into Sonko.[49]

On February 9, 2023, **Macky Sall**, announced his ambition to make **Thiès the "city of three stations"**, with the prospect of its service by train **Regional Express (TER)** whose railway line would be extended to link it to **Dakar**.

In December 2022, he attended the United States–Africa Leaders Summit 2022 in Washington, D.C. and met with US President Joe Biden. In July 2023, he attended the Russia–Africa Summit in Saint Petersburg.



Foundiougne is located in the **Fatick region** and is above the Gambia
Ziguinchor is in the **Casamance region of Senegal** and is below the Gambia

----A BACKGROUNDER on **Thiès** ----

Thiès (*Founded: 1869*), pronounced as “chess,” derives its name from a Wolof word meaning “to eat.” Traditionally, the locals would gather under large trees to eat

and socialize, giving rise to the phrase “**tey ko ci**” in Wolof, which translates to “to eat under a tree”.

Thiès is situated approximately 70 Km East of **Dakar**. **Thiès** is renowned for its vibrant textile industry, particularly its **intricately patterned fabrics known as “wax prints.”** These textiles are produced in exclusive factories and showcase Senegal’s top artists’ designs.

Railway Junction: The Senegal Railway Company, established in 1885, has its headquarters in **Thiès**. At first a simple **rail stop** (“*escale*”), on the Dakar-Saint Louis line (completed in 1885) **Thiès** became a **rail junction** with the **Dakar-Niger line** (built 1906–1923). The national network of paved roads created after World War II also converged on **Thiès** (The N3 road joins the N2 road in the town.) The city thus commands access to the entire **Cap-Vert** (or the *Cape Verde*) **Peninsula** (Dakar and **Rufisque**).

Rufisque is a town and minor port, East of Dakar at the SouthEastern end of the **Cape Verde Peninsula**, Senegal. There are natural gas deposits nearby and there are beaches nearby. Population: (2004 Estimate) 0.15 Mn.

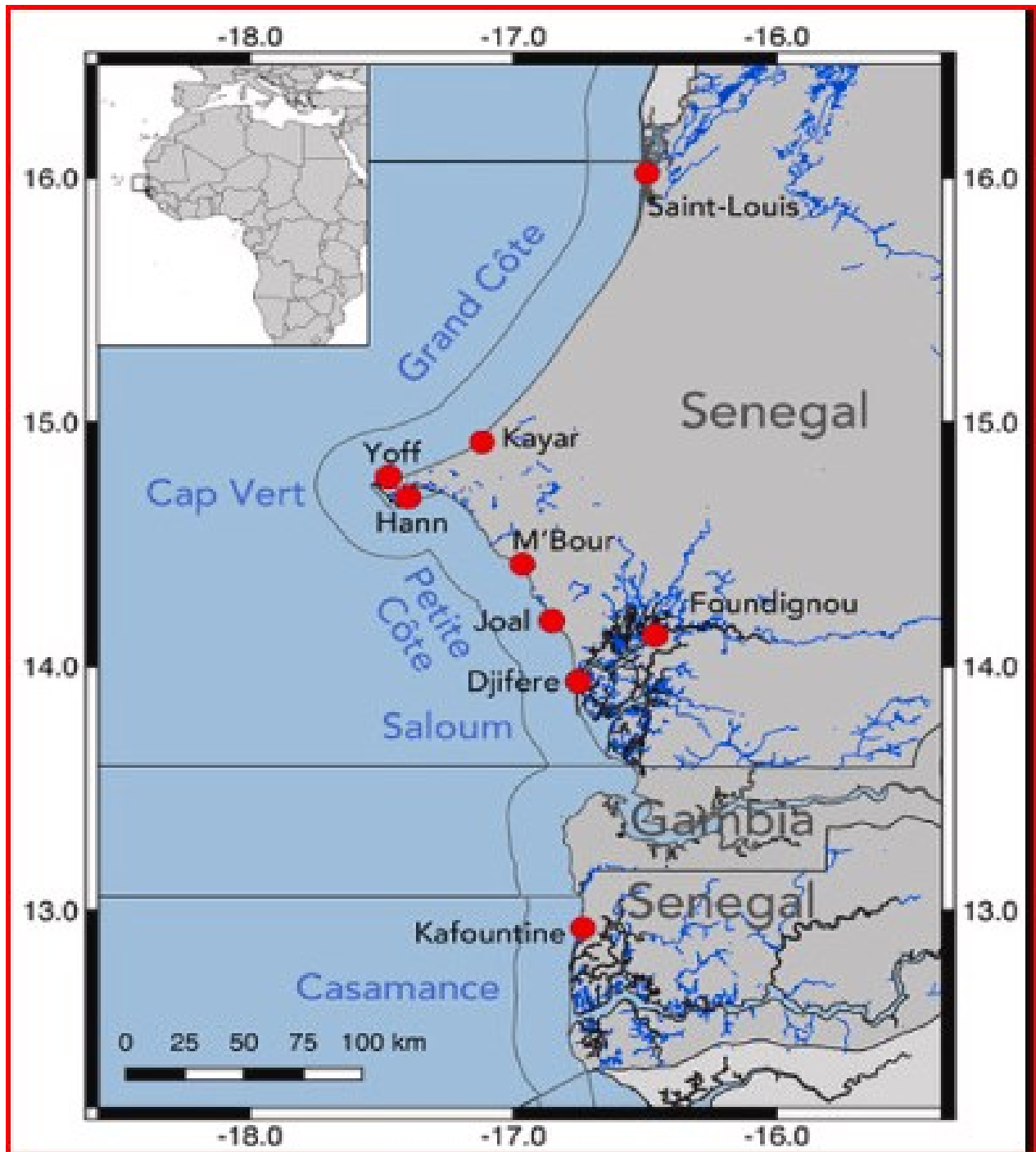
----A BACKGROUNDER on **Cap-Vert** or the **Cape Verde Peninsula**----

Dakar, the capital and the largest city of Senegal, are in the Peninsula.

Cap-Vert Peninsula is the westernmost part of the continent of Africa and of the Afro-Eurasia mainland. (**Pointe des Almadies** to the NorthWest of **Dakar** shown in the map **on page 25 below**, is the westernmost point.) The **Cape Verde islands**, 570 Km to the West, are named after the cape.

Formed by a combination of volcanic offshore islands and a land bridge produced by coastal currents, **Cap-Vert Peninsula** projects into the Atlantic Ocean, bending back to the southeast at its tip. Exposure to southwesterly winds contributes to **Cape Verde's** seasonal verdant appearance, in contrast to the undulating yellow dunes to the north. The peninsula is shaped like a triangle (about 14 Km per side), with the base of the triangle roughly along the north and its apex on the south, near Dakar.

The peninsula marks the border between **Grande Côte to the north** and **Petite Côte to the south**.



Reference: ‘Social Sciences & Humanities Open’, Volume 7, Issue 1, 2023, 100360

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590291122001140>

“Social construction of climate change and adaptation strategies among Senegalese artisanal fishers: Between empirical knowledge, magico-religious

practices and sciences” by **Adama Mbaye, Jörn Schmidt, Marie-Christine Cormier-Salem**

Note: Red dots, in the map above, were the fishing points selected for the study by the authors. For the map of the Cap-Vert peninsula, which shows the Grand Cote and the Petite Cote, these may not be considered.

The **Cap-Vert Peninsula** marks the border between **Grande Côte to the north** and **Petite Côte to the south**. (*Please see the map above.*)

The **Cap-Vert Peninsula** is itself delimited by two capes, **Pointe des Almadies** to the NorthWest of **Dakar** and cape **Manuel** to the SouthEast. (*Please see the map below.*)



Near **Pointe des Almadies**, the North-Western tip of the cape, lies **Léopold Sédar Senghor International Airport**.

The **Cap-Vert Peninsula** encloses a bay and a natural harbour in the SouthWest.

A SPECIAL FEATURE of the LANDSCAPE near **Dakar**: Twin volcanic cones, the **Deux Mamelles** ("*Two Teats*"), dominate the landscape **along the coast northwest of Dakar**. The highest hill is only 105 m high, but they stand out in the landscape owing to the flat surroundings.



The **Deux Mamelles** ("*Two Teats*"),
*lying a few Km (about 4 Km) to the SouthEast of the **Almadies point***
*and about 9 Km to the NorthWest of **Dakar**, on the **Cap-Vert peninsula***
On the seaward hill stands a lighthouse (Estd. 1864), the **Phare des Mamelles**, while
on the hill further ashore the **African Renaissance Monument** was erected and
unveiled in 2010.

The African Renaissance Monument is a 52 m tall (*the tallest statue in Africa*) bronze
statue located on top of one of the twin hills known as **Collines des Mamelles**,
outside **Dakar**. Built at a cost of \$27 Mn, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, designed
by the Senegalese architect **Pierre Goudiaby** after an idea presented by President
Abdoulaye Wade and built by a North Korean company, it was dedicated on **4 April**
2010, Senegal's National Day, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the
country's independence from France.

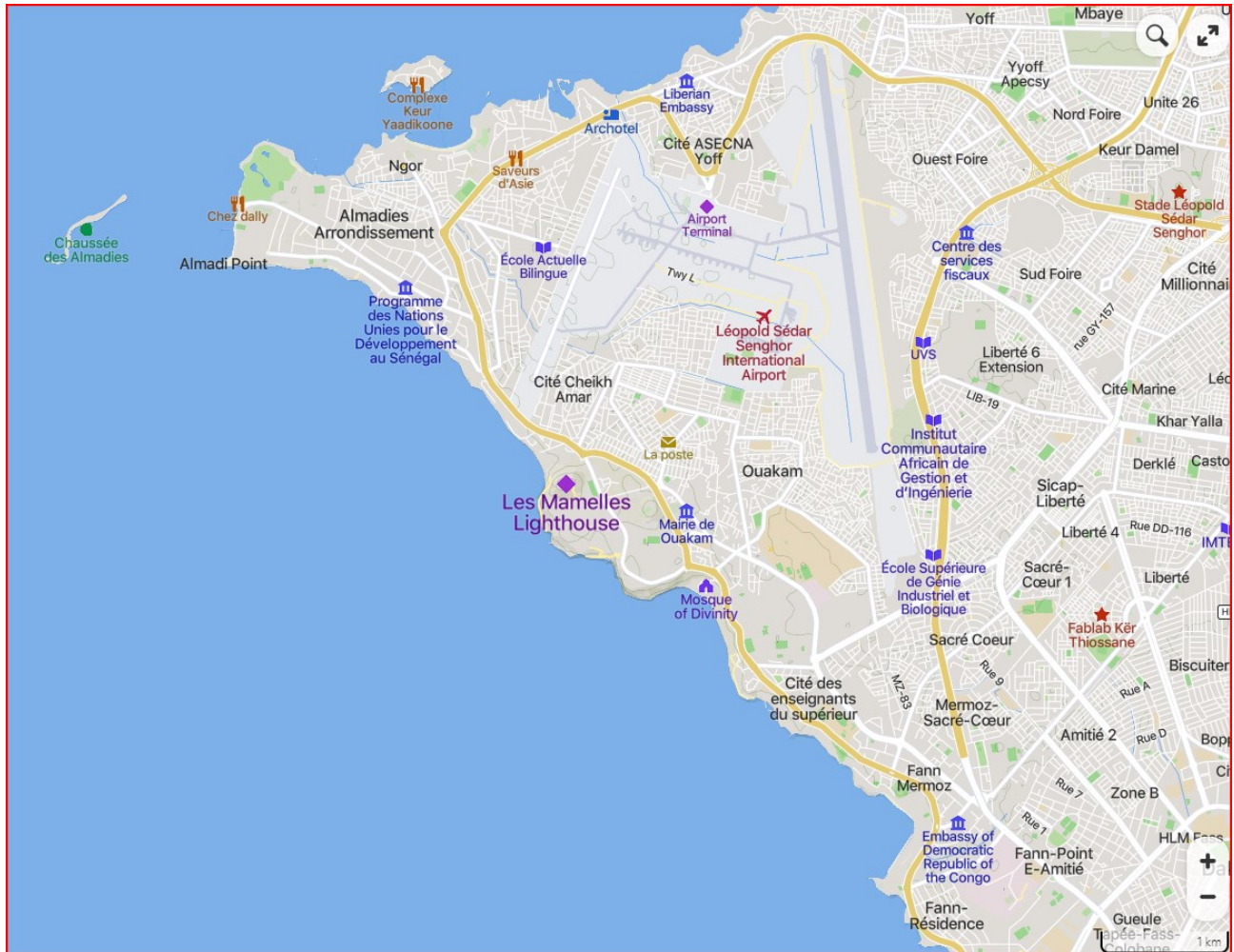
As seen from the African Renaissance Monument, the **Phare des Mamelles** (lighthouse) is visible. The **Pointe des Almadies** can be seen as a small sliver of land, far off in the photograph below.



Besides the **Les Mamelles Lighthouse**, the map, on the next page, also shows the following:

- **Chaussée des Almadies Lighthouse**: A SMALL lighthouse that is located on a reef just off the Pointe des Almadies. This masonry tower with lantern and gallery, painted white with narrow black horizontal bands is considered to be the westernmost lighthouse on the African continent.
- Leopold Sedar Senghor **International Airport**
- Stade Leopold Sedar Senghor (**Stadium**) **with a red star**
- Almadies Arrondissement (the costliest real estate in Africa)
- **Complexe Keur Yaadikoone** (a hotel offering an open-air restaurant & a garden terrace, with access to a Beach)

Ecoles, Institute etc



ADMINISTRATION: Senegal is subdivided into **14 regions**, each of which is administered by a **Conseil Régional**, elected by population at the arrondissement level. Senegal is further subdivided into **45 departments**, **103 arrondissements** (neither of which have administrative function) and by collectivités locales (the 14 regions, 110 communes, and 320 communautés rurales) which elect administrative officers.

Administrative Divisions of the Dakar Region				
Département	Commune	Arrondissement	Commune d'arrondissement	Communauté rurale
<i>Department/ County / State</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Borough</i>	<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Rural Borough</i>